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THE BAPTIST *Record*

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

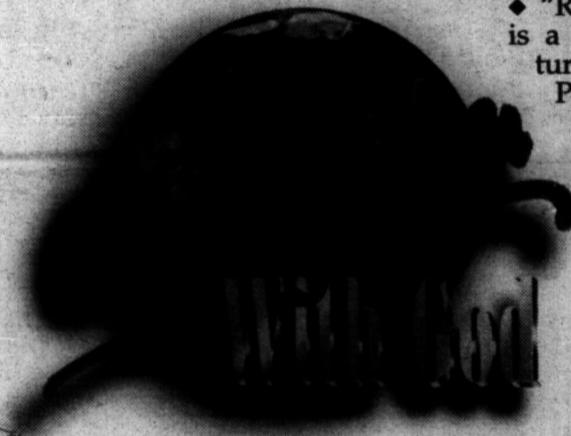
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New mission videos to be released by IMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) has completely revamped its line of videotape products designed to help adults and children understand how God is working to bring a lost world to himself.

The new "On Mission with God" video series provides four different products on one monthly videotape. Each segment is designed to meet a different need.

The new series begins with an October edition that is available now through the board's customer services department.

♦ "Rankin On Line" is a five-minute feature in which IMB President Jerry Rankin shares a vision of what God is doing around the world and how every Christian can get involved in God's mission of global evangelization.

♦ "On Mission" is a 10-minute segment that highlights different places where God is at work.

Each edition seeks to educate church members about what God is doing and motivate them to join him. "On Mission" is flexible enough to be used in Sunday School,

prayer meetings or Vacation Bible School settings.

♦ "Kids on Mission" is the award-winning video that introduces children to God's redemptive activity around the world and helps them be on mission with God themselves.

In addition to being part of the monthly video package, "Kids on Mission" will be compiled into a separate undated product with nine segments on each tape for use in children's mission groups. A new edition of that tape will be available every three months.

♦ "Global Reach" is a two-minute to three-minute segment that can be used during worship services, Sunday School classes, and prayer meetings.

Churches will find "Global Reach" useful to prepare for global mission conferences and world mission offerings.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! — Alan Sader ("Mr. Christopher") and Christina Ryals ("Penny") rehearse for an episode of "Kids on Mission," an award-winning video from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The new "On Mission with God" video series provides four different products on one monthly videotape, with each segment designed to meet a different need in a congregation. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

Leader's resource material is included with each "On Mission with God" package to make it more user-friendly, said Linda McGinn, director of the International Mission Board's electronic media department.

A nationally known speaker and author of more than 20 books, McGinn joined the IMB in March after three years as producer of "KeyPoints," a nationally syndicated radio program that applies biblical truths to the realities of everyday life.

A second, brand-new prod-

uct also is being prepared for a fall release, McGinn said. "God's Window on the World" will be a 60-second mission update offered to radio stations.

Monthly editions of the "On Mission with God" video series are available for \$9.95.

Subscribers will receive the series for a year at half price, \$59.95.

To order, contact the International Mission Board's customer services department by e-mail at customer.services@imb.org or call toll-free (800) 866-3621.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Annuity Board announces that medical insurance rates will rise 30% in 1989. Also, some benefit reductions are planned in an attempt to control soaring health-care cost. Medical claims are exceeding premiums by nearly \$1 million each month.

20 years ago

A \$50,000 student summer mission budget is the top order of business for the annual Baptist Student Convention. The money, raised by the students themselves, will go for support of at least 59 Mississippi student summer missionaries.

50 years ago

Dale Moody, J. J. Owens, Wayne Oates, William Hardy, Theron D. Price, and William Mueller sign the Abstract of Principles during opening exercises at Southern Seminary in Louisville, thus becoming the largest number of new professors to be added to the faculty at one time.

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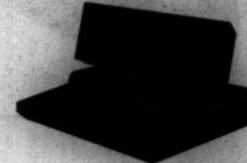
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

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William H. Perkins Jr.

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A cup of water in the name of Jesus

They aren't really superhuman. They just act as if they are when the call for help goes out, and then you can be sure no phone booth in Mississippi is safe. If God kept a list of Christians who really reflect the Savior they profess — people upon whom he can always rely — up near the top of such a list would be Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers. (See article on opposite page.)

We have probably driven the phrase, "unsung heroes," to the point of triteness, but it's the only way to describe these dedicated volunteers who use personal vacation time, abandon the comforts of home, and otherwise leave their everyday lives behind any time disaster strikes anywhere.

They can be away for weeks at a time in far-flung places like California and Haiti, or they can be as close as Pascagoula. They are prepared to pick up and go on a moment's notice.

There may not be running water or electricity where they go. The devastated locations to which they are sent can be dangerous. Diseases and natural hazards abound in disaster areas.

The huge, propane-fired commercial equipment they use to cook thousands of meals each day, plus the incredibly long hours each volunteer must work, pose dangers that must be constantly monitored.

They don't hesitate to rush into an earthquake area while aftershocks are still occurring. It's not unusual for volunteer clean-up crews to sweep live water moccasons from a house along with other flood debris. The working conditions can be pretty awful.

It's certainly not the type of air conditioned, suit-and-tie, "meet and eat" activity to which Southern Baptists have grown so accustomed in these times of personal and denominational prosperity.

Therein lies the lesson.

Most of our Mississippi Baptist brothers and sisters who serve as disaster relief volunteers have never been asked to make an important speech at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), nor have they sought appointment to prestigious positions within the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC).

You won't see them campaigning behind the scenes for their favorite SBC presidential candidate, and they'll proba-

bly miss most of the private meetings held to tout people for MBC high office.

They probably don't have a single \$1,000 suit among them, but they've got plenty of steel-toe boots and leather work gloves.

They don't care to drive a bus of messengers to the convention to swing an important vote, but they'll drive the convention's eighteen-wheeler to the ends of the earth for a disaster victim.

That's the kind of people they are. That's the kind of people we should all be, because that's the kind of person Jesus was.

We can leave the convention business to God long enough to do what our Savior — his Son — asked us to do (Matt. 25:34-40).

For just a little while, we can put aside the high opinion we hold of ourselves and act more like we're supposed to act in the first place (John 13:1-17). We can get our hands dirty doing dirty work, just like Jesus.

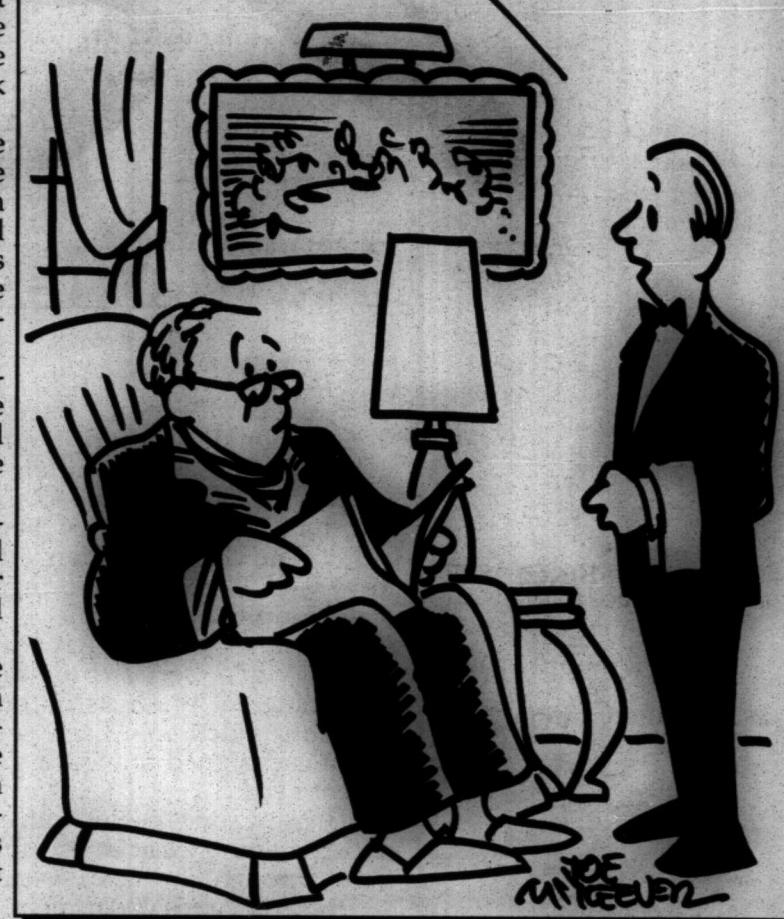
Admittedly, there are many ways to do that in addition to disaster relief volunteerism. The impact of those numerous ministries cannot be minimized, and should receive the same recognition and appreciation.

It's just that this week — this day — we are aware that a group of people are working intolerable hours under intolerable conditions to make the lives of displaced people more tolerable.

At considerable personal sacrifice, they are reaching out this week to thirsty people in the name of Jesus with a cup of water, as they have for the past 20 years of this ministry.

If that's not a picture of devotion to the Savior they profess, then what is? In a world torn by both natural and man-made disasters of unprecedented proportions, it is precisely the picture a lost world should see.

"SHALL I PREPARE YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON, SIR?"



A special note: We at The Baptist Record would be remiss if we failed to express our appreciation in an appropriate way for the ministry of Bill Causey, who retired Sept. 30 from the position of executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (See article below.)

Throughout his tenure, he allowed The Baptist Record to be the voice of Mississippi Baptists, shielding the newspaper from interference that would have detracted from its mission and refusing to interfere himself.

As we look to the great days ahead under the capable leadership of our new executive director-treasurer, Jim Futral, we simply wanted to take a moment to offer our gratitude and best wishes to Bill Causey upon his retirement. (Phil. 1:3)

The certain outcome

By Bill Causey, former executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

ing nothing more or less than for God's will to be done in our affairs.

The result of such fellowship in the body of Christ has produced an unusually progressive and congenial convention board that has been an obvious instrument in the hand of our Lord.

All of the above, when taken together, demonstrates the influence of God upon the many who

comprise an enlarging circle of influence in the world.

We call them Mississippi Baptists.

It has been a joy to serve you and to serve with you; and in a very special way, I thank the ones who work in the Baptist Building for their unique contribution — especially those who on a daily basis have been my closest advisors and yoke fellows in the task.

Finally, please

understand my desire to thank God for my family. No person was ever more blessed than I in the precious companion God gave me, or in the children he entrusted to us.

What a joy they are and how I do love them. They have shared the journey with grace and dedication. The same to my extended family.

I pledge to Dr. Futral my prayers and support and Christian affection as a brother. Please join me in that. So much in God's work depends on it.

The target has been isolated. The army is focused. The outcome is as certain as the promises of God.

God bless you all!

Causey retired Sept. 30 after nine years as executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He was succeeded Oct. 1 by Jim Futral, former pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.



Causey

Disaster relief unit activated for Georges

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

Even before Hurricane Georges made its unerring way from the Atlantic Ocean to the shores of Mississippi, Baptists in the state were making ready for the disaster.

A number of churches and associations opened their doors to refugees evacuated from Gulf Coast areas.

As the eye of Georges made landfall near the border between Mississippi and Alabama on Sept. 27, the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit commandeered the kitchen at Midway Church, Jackson, on Sept. 28-29 to prepare meals for evacuees who were staying in metro area.

The unit then redeployed to Jackson County after the worst of the storm had passed and was operational by lunch on Sept. 29 in the parking lot of First Church, Pascagoula.

The activation marked the third time the unit was sent to Pascagoula in the 20 years of Mississippi Baptist disaster relief ministry.

Earlier dispatches to Pascagoula were after Hurricane Elena in 1979 and Hurricane Frederic in 1985.

The centerpiece of the unit, operated by a trained task force, is a mobile field kitchen capable of producing thousands of hot meals each day.

The unit, housed in an 18-wheeler, served approximately 6,000 hot meals the first three days of operation — served by hand to individuals who came to the unit.

After that, most meals were placed into large portable containers and delivered into the neighborhoods by American Red Cross vehicles.

On Sept. 30 the 12 task force members on duty, assisted by local volunteers, served 2,600 hot meals from 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. without a moment's break.

One secular news reporter called the response of Mississippi Baptists to Hurricane Georges, "a godsend."

A hurricane victim told Baptist volunteers that without a hot meal from Baptists, for the third day she would have been eating potted meat again.

Interviewed as they waited their turn in line, dozens of victims reported water damage to their homes. "Thank God, no one was hurt," were the words of many.

Tell Baptists, said a member of another denomination eating at the unit, the disaster ministry is "well worth their tithe."

"I think a lot of miracles happened," said Dot Simmons, secretary for Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport. "You could see a lot of trees fell between houses rather than on them. How could they miss?"

Tongue-and-groove boards from a tin-roofed business in Pascagoula spiked through the home of one local resident.

Propelled by a tornado whelmed by Georges, the boards imbedded themselves in the roof, the walls, and five feet into the yard. No one was injured.

As of Oct. 5, at least 32,751 hot meals had been served from four units of Baptist disaster relief response.

Besides the main unit, the mobile kitchen from Enterprise Church, Enterprise, was set up at Woolmarket Church, Biloxi. Those volunteers served from Sept. 30 - Oct. 5.

A unit from Holmes Association in Lexington set up at Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, and served from Sept. 30 - Oct. 3.

The Mississippi Baptist disaster relief ministry works in concert with the American Red Cross and local Baptist entities in determining the locations of greatest need after a disaster.

Paul Harrell, Mississippi Brotherhood director and off-site disaster relief coordinator, said that as repair was begun on water-damaged portions of First Church, Pascagoula, the main disaster relief unit was moved

to First Church, Gautier.

Jim Didlake, consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department and on-site coordinator for disaster relief, said the unit would likely be cooking meals through the weekend of Oct. 10-11.

A total of 150 church volunteers had served on the various disaster relief units as of Oct. 5, in addition to 38 task force members and another 17 non-task force members involved in food services.

Harrell reported that clean-up and recovery operations were underway with 38 volunteers in Jackson County and about 50 in Gulf Coast Association.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

THE BAPTIST RECORD

OCTOBER 8, 1998

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"I WAS HUNGRY..." — Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force members Bobby Kennedy (left) of Wesson, and Claver Blair (right) of Carrollton were among the first to staff the state denomination's field kitchen in Pascagoula in the aftermath of Hurricane Georges. A total of 32,751 hot meals were served at four sites along the coast by the end of Oct. 5. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Miss. CP ahead of budget

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2.3 million in September to keep ahead of Cooperative Program (CP) budget needs by just over a half million dollars, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The September total was \$2,320,919, which, added to January through August gifts, comes to \$19,717,693 for the year.

September 1998 gifts were \$223 less than that given in September of 1997. However, total 1998 gifts are \$188,845, or .97% more than the 1997 total for January through September.

Thus far, 1998 giving is \$557,737, or 2.91% more than the pro rata budget. This is figured by taking the total Cooperative Program budget of \$25,546,608, dividing by 12 and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

Cooperative Program gifts help fund such ministries as the Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf this weekend at Camp Garaywa; the state Church Media Library Conference at First Church, Tupelo, Oct. 16-17; and the Ministers' Wives Conference at First Church, Jackson, Oct. 26.

SBC CP sets 5th record

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) ended the 1997-98 fiscal year with record Cooperative Program gifts, nearly \$160 million, surpassing last year's record by about \$5 million and the budget by more than \$11 million, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the SBC's fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the \$159,583,743 total for 1997-98 is \$4,578,020, or 2.95%, above last year's record of \$155,005,723. The SBC's Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for the year of \$148,185,077 was surpassed by \$11,398,666, or 7.69%.

Designated gifts also set a record, topping last year's designated gifts by more than \$9 million. For the month of September, the CP total was \$12,470,453 compared to September 1997 of \$13,512,684, a difference of \$1,042,231 or 7.71%. Designated gifts for the month were \$2,549,247, or \$100,553 more than the \$2,448,693 in September 1997.

The September 1998 total was \$121,697 more than the required monthly budget amount of \$12,348,756, or an increase of .99%.

LifeWay opens new stores

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Three months after the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, the national chain of LifeWay Christian Stores has acquired two Christian stores in Salt Lake City and nearby Ogden, Utah.

The chain, owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, assumed ownership of two Intermountain Christian Book Stores, the dominant Christian retailer in Utah that has served a seven-state area for more than 45 years.

With the addition of these stores the chain will operate 79 stores in 21 states.

LifeWay Christian Stores is on the World Wide Web at www.lifewaystores.com.

MBC auxiliary meeting

Clarke College Alumni breakfast: Wednesday, Oct. 28; 7 a.m.; First Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall East

Changes to be submitted to '98 messengers

The Mississippi Baptist Convention's organizational documents need to be amended to provide documentary and organizational support for action taken by the messengers during the 1996 annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC).

The Plan of Organization and Action may only be amended at one of MBC's annual sessions by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present, subject to the following four stipulations:

During 1997 Convention:

(1) Notice in writing setting forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment shall have been given at the annual meeting of the Convention of the immediately preceding year;

During 1998 Convention:

(2) Such proposed amendment shall be published in the Annual and in The Baptist Record, and referred to the standing Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for study and recommendations;

(3) Such amendment shall be adopted before the last day of the annual meeting;

(4) A quorum of the messengers shall be present at the time the vote is taken.

Listed below is the exact wording of the proposed

changes to the Plan of Organization and Action:

PROPOSED:
THAT Article VI of the Plan of Organization and Action be amended to reflect the existing sentence as Section 1, and to include the following additional section:

Section 2. Institutions sponsored and supported by the Convention shall be free to amend their respective charters in order to conduct official business, but only so long as any charter amendments do not operate to change the fundamental relationship between the Convention and the institution, or to otherwise alter the institution's promotion and adherence to principles of Christian education, benevolent enterprises, healthcare or social services.

THAT Article VII, Section 1, be amended by adding the bold language:

Each college, hospital, or child care agency owned and supported by the Convention shall be operated and controlled by a board of trustees of at least fifteen but not more than twenty-four members elected by the Convention for terms of three years in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Convention.

THAT Article XIII, Section 1, be amended by adding the bold

language:
Members of the Convention Board, the Education Commission, the Board of Ministerial Education, the Baptist Foundation, the Historical Commission, and the trustees of the institutions owned or supported by the Convention, unless otherwise provided for by specific charter statement, shall be elected for a term of three years not to exceed two terms, and shall serve for three years unless sooner removed for cause by either the Convention or the sitting board of trustees, in accordance with the manner provided by charter.

THAT Article XIII, Section 3, should be amended to reflect the following change, highlighted in bold:

Vacancies on any board or commission of the Convention occurring between annual meetings of the Convention may be filled temporarily by the Convention Board or Executive Committee of the Board and those thus designated shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Convention, at which time the committee on Nominations shall jointly nominate with the sitting board of trustees of each respective institution, and the Convention shall elect a member to complete the

unexpired part of the term. Vacancies occurring on boards of trustees of the institutions shall be filled in the above manner, or as provided by charter.

The Bylaws may be either suspended or amended at any annual session of MBC by vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting, provided that notice of the contemplated action shall have been provided to those members present on the preceding day.

The only proposed and recommended change to MBC's Bylaws pertains to Section XI concerning the Committee on Nominations as follows:

The Committee on Nominations shall nominate the members of the Convention Board, the members of the Education Commission, the members of the Historical Commission, the trustees of the institutions of the Convention, the members of the Board of Ministerial Education, the trustees of the Baptist Foundation, and the members of any other committees, commissions, or boards referred to it by action of the Convention. The trustees of the institutions of the Convention shall be jointly nominated by the Committee on Nominations and the sitting board of trustees at each respective institution.

Baseball's Brantley to address Lay Missions Conf.

Major League Baseball pitcher Jeff Brantley of the St. Louis Cardinals, who makes his home in Clinton, will be a guest speaker during the

Mississippi Baptist Lay Missions Conference Oct. 26 at First Church, Jackson.

The conference, designed for laypeople and interested minis-

ters, will feature a series of special interest conferences at 3 p.m. and a banquet at 4:45 p.m.

The special interest sessions include separate meetings for agricultural missions, construction missions, educational missions, partnership missions, sports evangelism, and Volunteers in Missions.

The agricultural group will hear retired missionary to Belize, Cliff Scarborough, who is working part time for Jackson Association in Pascagoula.

The educators will hear a report on Book-Link, an effort to provide quality books for overseas ministers. The missions volunteers group will hear a report from M.C. Johnson, director of missions for North Delta Association in Clarksdale, on the importance of volunteers in missions.

Brantley will present a testimony at the banquet concerning "Marketplace Ministry." The banquet will also feature a mission focus from George Komendant, executive director of the Ukraine Baptist Union in eastern Europe.

Mississippi Baptists are readying two new missions partnership with Ukraine and in Maryland/Delaware.

Rodney Hibbler, pastor of Friars Point Church, Friars Point, will speak on the impact of missions on a local church field, with an emphasis on the World Changers ministry.

Musicians for the banquet will be Richard and Susan Lister. Richard is minister of music at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

The afternoon conferences are free. Tickets for the evening banquet are \$8 per person and may be purchased through the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Checks should be payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference set for Oct. 26 at First Church, Jackson

The 1998 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference on Oct. 26 at First Church, Jackson, will feature the new executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Convention Board, Jim Futral, as keynote speaker during the afternoon session.

The program begins at 1:30 p.m. with Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church,

Jacksonville; and Luther Price, pastor of Riverside Church, Clarksdale.

The evening session begins at 6:40 p.m. with James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga.; and Vines.

In addition, Hershael York, professor of preaching at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will be leading Bible

study in each session.

Leading congregational music will be Erik Fearing, minister of music at First Church, Oxford.

Musicians will include Johnny and DeAnna Cabaness, concert and evangelistic musicians from Nashville.

Theme of the conference is "Feeding the Flock," based on Pet. 5:2-3, according to Tom Atwood, conference president and pastor of First Church, Oxford.

For more information, contact Atwood at 800 Van Buren Avenue, Oxford, MS 38655. Telephone: (601) 234-3515.



Futral



Price



Vines



Merritt

CML conference set for 1st Church, Tupelo

The 27th Annual Church Media Library (CML) Conference will be held October 16-17 at First Church, Tupelo.

The conference begins on Oct. 16 with registration at 9:30 a.m., and will conclude at 9 p.m. The conference begins on Oct. 17 at 8:15 a.m. and concludes at 12 noon.

Courses being offered this year are:

- ◆ Getting Started: I'm New, What Do I Need to Know? and Promotion Design — Print, taught by Beth Andrews, media library director at First Church, Southlake, Texas, and national specialist in the church media program at Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville.

- ◆ Classifying Using Dewey, Collecting and Preserving Your

Church's History; and Choosing and Using Subject Headings, taught by Sue Berthelot, media library director at Ascension Baptist Mission, Gonzales, La., and national specialist, church media program, at Lifeway Christian Resources.

- ◆ Promotion: The Basic Plan, and Automation MLS, taught by Eva Nell Hunter, media library director at Central Church, Decatur, Ala., and national specialist, church media program at Lifeway Christian Resources.

- ◆ Administration: Getting the Work Done



Andrews



Berthelot



Hunter

— More than the Basics; and Promotion Design — Activities, taught by Rita Kirkland, media library director, First Church, Euless, Texas, and national specialist, church media program at Lifeway Christian Resources.

- ◆ Preparing Print Media for Circulation; and Audio-visual Media for Circulation, taught by Sandra Fitts, media library director, at First Church, Corinth, and associational media ministry director for Alcorn Association in

Corinth.

- ◆ Ministering to the Needs of Adults, taught by Barbara Freese, freelance writer, conference leader, and retired lead consultant in the church media program at Lifeway Christian Resources.

Special conference features include the Baptist Book Store exhibit, and Barbara Freese will share an inspiring interpretation of the theme for 1998-99.

A new feature this year will be the Mississippi Media Sampler at 6:45 p.m. on Oct. 16.

Booths at the Mississippi Media Sampler will include:

- ◆ Book Doctor by Beth Andrews.

- ◆ Library Teaching Tips by Sue Berthelot.

- ◆ Paper Creation by Eva Nell Hunter.

- ◆ Mini-Display Ideas by Rita Kirkland.

- ◆ Processing & Other Supplies by Faye Miller and Sandra Fitts.

Attendees must make lodging reservations. Be sure to ask for Mississippi Church Media Library rate. Suggested accommodations in the Tupelo vicinity are:

- Amerihost, 625 Spicer Drive. (601) 844-7660.

- Comfort Inn, 1190 North Gloster St. (601) 842-5100.

- Courtyard Marriott, 1320 North Gloster St. (601) 841-9960.

Registration fee for the conference is \$12.50 per person. This includes lunch and dinner at the church on Oct. 16 and conference materials. Reservations are required.

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to Broadcast Services/CML, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

For more information, contact the MBCB Broadcast Services Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Kirkland



Fitts



Freese

WMU leader begins therapy

BIRMINGHAM Ala. (BP) — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director of the Southern Baptist auxiliary Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), continues to improve following a mild stroke Sept. 26, but remains hospitalized while undergoing extensive therapy in a Birmingham hospital.

O'Brien, 65, suffered the stroke at her home in Birmingham on Sept. 26. While doctors suspected a stroke, tests did not confirm the diagnosis until Sept. 29.

Because of the tremendous outpouring of support, the O'Briens have asked that in lieu of flowers and other gifts, contributions be made to the Dellanna West O'Brien Christian Women's Leadership Development Fund, a fund established earlier this year to honor O'Brien on her 10th anniversary with WMU. Send gifts to: WMU Foundation, PO Box 11346 Birmingham, AL 35202-1346. Make checks payable to the WMU Foundation. Cards and notes may be sent to her at the WMU mailing address: P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham AL 35283-0010.

Ministers' wives meet Oct. 26

The annual conference of Ministers' Wives will take place Oct. 26 from 1-4:30 p.m. at First Church, Jackson.

Featured speakers for the conference are the husband and wife team of Tommy and Melinda Yessick from Nashville.

Melinda is a First Place instructor and conference leader for Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville. Tommy is a wellness and LeadeCare consultant at Lifeway, formerly known as the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Tommy wrote the book, "Building Blocks for Longer Life and Ministry." His topic will be "Total Well-Being in the Minister's Family." Melinda will speak on "Food Smart in the Minister's home."

A fellowship break at 2:45 p.m. will be sponsored by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. Jim Futral, new executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and his wife Shirley will be on hand to greet ministers' wives.

For more information, contact the MBCB Church Administration Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3305 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

NOBTS announces Miss. bivocational music courses

October 26 begins the sixth of eight courses at seven locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS).

The eight courses are: (1) Song Leading; (2) Worship Planning; (3) Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; (4) Reading Music: Harmony/ Melody; (5) Hymnology; (6) Music Administration/Staff Relations; (7) Survey of Music Resources; (8) Class Voice. These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$75.

"Project 25" is a cooperative effort of NOBTS, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Baptist Sunday School Board to grant \$100 for the registration fee and first course cost to the first 25 bivocational music directors who register. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The sixth, "Music Administration/Staff Relations" will meet once a week for two

hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- ◆ Broadmoor Church, Jackson. 7-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 26. Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

- ◆ First Church, Columbus. 7-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 29. Ed Nix, teacher.

- ◆ First Church, Purvis. 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 26. James Hayes, teacher.

- ◆ East McComb Church, McComb. 7-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 26. Joe Elliott, teacher.

- ◆ First Church, Booneville. 7-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 26. LuAnne Ford, teacher.

- ◆ Northcrest Church, Meridian. 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 26. Buddy McElroy, teacher.

- ◆ Hernando Church, Hernando. 7-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 26. Barry Tweedy, teacher. (This new location will materialize if at least 10-12 students attend.)

Additional classes may be organized in other locations around the state where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact

Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College's Preview Day will be held Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Thomas Business Building, Hattiesburg campus. A complimentary lunch will be provided for students. For more information or to make reservations, call 1-800-962-5991 ext 103 or 582-6103.

Mississippi College Music Department will present Laura Michelle Edward of Jackson in a senior voice recital on Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. A music education major with an emphasis in voice, Edwards is the student of Nell Adams. She is a member of the Concert Singers, the Concert Choir, and the Chorale Choir.

William Carey College Theatre will present the drama, "Antigone," on Oct. 15-17 at 8 p.m. The legendary story was the subject for the ancient Greek dramatist Sophocles, while the modern version, which Carey is presenting, is an adaptation by Lewis Galantiere from Jean Anouilh's play. Seats for the performances in the O. L. Quave Theatre may be reserved by calling (601) 582-

6221. The box office will be open daily from 1-4 p.m. beginning Oct. 12. Regular admissions \$6, while the cost for students is \$3.

Mississippi College (MC) music professor James Slater will present a lecture/recital entitled "The Clarinetist as Singer," featuring himself and Angela Willoughby, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., in Aven Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Aven lobby. Willoughby is assistant professor of piano at Belhaven College and music director at Fondren Presbyterian Church in Jackson. The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Registration for the Winter Trimester at William Carey College (WCC) will be held Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. in Tatum Court on the Hattiesburg campus. Current WCC students are encouraged to register during early registration scheduled Oct. 5, 6, and 8, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Classes will begin Nov. 9. Graduate and night classes are offered. For more information on registration call the admissions office at 1-800-962-5991 ext 103, or 582-6103.

REVIVAL DATES

Learned Church celebrates 150th

Learned Church, Learned, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Oct. 10 and 11. Activities on Saturday will consist of a meal at 6 p.m. and service by former pastors. Sunday morning worship service will be held at 11 a.m. The speaker for Sunday will be Bradley Pope of Clinton.

Damascus, Flora: Oct. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Andrea and Andy Smalley, Moundville, Ala., guest singers; William E. "Sonny" Bradshaw, pastor, speaker.

Pearlhaven, Brookhaven: Oct. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; singing, 2 p.m., Midnight Cry, Union Church, guest singers; Johnny Sykes, Brookhaven, guest speaker; Glen Mullins, pastor.

Zion Hill, Wesson: cemetery day; Oct. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall; Mark Hamilton, music; Tom McCormick, pastor.

Courtland (Panola): Oct. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; Roy Southern, Newellton, La., guest speaker; others on program are Royalty, Grenada; New Spirit; and Courtland youth; revival services start Oct. 18; Willard Crawley, pastor.

Clear Branch (Rankin): Oct. 11; 101st; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon singing; Roger Lee, former pastor, guest speaker.

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Beulah Memorial, Bolton: Oct. 5-9; 7 p.m. nightly; E. L. Sharpe, Vicksburg, evangelist; Hully Williams, Beulah Memorial Church, music; Bob Martin, pastor.

Thomastown (Leake): Oct. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, director of missions, Winston Association, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Starkville, music.

Goss, Columbia: Oct. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Robertson, El Dorado, Ark., evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Hattiesburg, music; David Laird, pastor.

Old Hebron (Covington-Jeff Davis): Oct. 11; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon piano and organ duet; guests are Durr Walker and Roy Daughdrill; Kenneth Crosby, Monticello, guest speaker; Randy Gardner, pastor.

First, Mt. Pleasant: Oct. 11; 40th anniversary; dinner at noon; singing in the afternoon; Leonard Russell, pastor.

Harrisville, Harrisville: Oct. 11; services, 10 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Larry Hill, Red Bay, Ala., guest speaker; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Cecil Hathorn, pastor.

Ludlow (Scott): Oct. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; Keith

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First, Picayune: Oct. 11-14; services, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, Pascagoula, evangelist; Brad and Tammy Jones, music; Bill Hardin, pastor.

Shady Grove, Hazlehurst: Oct. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mack Amis Jr., Enterprise, Ala., evangelist; Brad and Joy Johnson, Brookhaven, music; Hal Hatten, pastor.

Strayhorn (Northwest): Oct. 11-14; homecoming and dedication of new education building, Oct. 11; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Bobby Cossey, former pastor, speaker; Gary Black, pastor.

Mangrum, Marydell: guest speaker; Bill Charles Beavers, Ludlow Church, music; M. L. Wallace, pastor.

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Divinity Hall Student Commons

12:00 noon

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Springdale, Kosciusko: Oct. 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sammy McDonald, Florence, evangelist; Robby Robertson, Sallis, music; Mark Wicker, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

James D. (Danny) Dodds has resigned from Southway Church, Brookhaven, to accept the pastorate of New Serepta Church in Serepta, La., effective Oct. 4. Former churches that he has pastored are New Harmony, Philadelphia; Clear Creek, Wayne County; and Second in Kosciusko.

Westwood Church, Meridian, has called **Richard Davis** as pastor effective Oct. 4. Davis received his education from Livingston University, New Orleans Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary. His pre-

vious place of service was Pine Grove Church, Union.

Becker Church, Becker, has called **David Jay** as pastor. A native of Newton, Jay received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. Jay previously served at East Louisville Church, Louisville.

Michael Smith has resigned as minister of youth at Lena Church, Lena. Smith plans to enter New Orleans Seminary in January.

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY'S BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL presents the tenth annual Reformation Heritage Lectures October 27-29, 1998. This year's speaker is JAMES B. TORRANCE, professor emeritus of Systematic Theology at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Professor Torrance is well known for his widespread involvement in both academic and church life. A frequent lecturer across the globe, Professor Torrance also has been chairman of the international conversations between the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Lutheran World Federation, chairman of the British Council of Churches' Commission on the Trinity and chairman of the Joint Commission on Doctrine of the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Roman Catholic Church. Professor Torrance will lecture on "Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace." Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Beeson sponsors this annual lectureship to honor the heritage of the Protestant Reformation and its abiding validity for the renewal of the church today. For information on the lectures, the discussion luncheon, or Beeson Divinity School, call Gregg S. Morrison at 1-800-888-8266 or 205-870-2991.



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GAMBLING NOT SIN

Editor:

In response to the Guest Opinion on gambling, I would like to make a few brief comments.

First, gambling is not a sin. Gambling becomes sinful when it is abused. The excess of anything is harmful and sinful. I really enjoy ice cream, but 1 gallon a day might be considered a sinful pleasure.

Second, "the love of money is the root of all evil" as the Bible declares. True! Now, every farmer who borrows \$100,000 or more to plant his crop in order to make money gambles every year. Is this sinful? No! Could it be? Sure, if money was his only motive.

Pastors gamble and sell their souls for the love of money every time they take a new church based solely on compensation. Of course, we're "called." Yes, we're often called to leave and make more money.

In all of my years, I have only known a few pastors dedicated enough to the ministry to leave

a larger congregation for a smaller one. The truth hurts!

Third, are casinos inherently "dens of iniquity?" Yes, but no more so than your local church. You say, blasphemy! Why so? People are sinful, not institutions or things.

Finally, my point is simply this: Let us judge and condemn places, things, and others less, and spend more time loving each other and working on our own sins.

Andy Brasher
Como

THANKS FOR SYMPATHY

Editor:

The Rhymes family would like to extend our deepest thanks to all who reached out to us at the death of our husband and father.

So many said kind words, sent cards, or brought food, and we wanted everyone to know that each act brought a little warmth to us.

The way in which he died was traumatic, but each time

we heard a story of how Don Rhymes had helped you, it brought a smile to our faces and helped us to concentrate on that which is really important.

Our husband and father is in heaven and we all will see him again. We hope that each of you realize that God used "Don" stories to buffer the shock. All of you were truly used by God.

The Rhymes family
Jackson, MS

COLO. SEEKS DIRECTOR

Editor:

The Colorado Baptist General Convention (CBGC) is receiving recommendations and resumes for director of church communications ministries.

The responsibilities include developing and managing electronic communications, publishing the monthly Rocky Mountain Baptist, publishing Leadership, and assisting with mailings, brochures, etc.

Please send information by October 21 to me at CBGT, 7393 S. Alton Way, Englewood, CO 80112.

David Bunch, executive dir.
CBGT, Englewood, CO

GIVING UP CONTROL?

Editor:

Just after the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Convention, a headline in The Clarion Ledger read, "State Baptist institutions gain control."

The convention had ignored key issues in the constitution and by-laws regarding control of our institutions.

I wrote a letter just prior to the 1997 convention asking why we have constitutions and by-laws. It was no surprise, then, that a change in the by-laws was suggested in order to legalize what had been done.

Baptists believe in the autonomy of the local church, association, and conventions.

No one tells any one of these institutions what it can or can't do — ever. These new by-laws destroy this principle.

On August 8, I wrote the presidents and trustees of our institutions asking them to fill out a questionnaire to ascertain whether they believed Mississippi Baptists, or they, should control our institutions.

The three presidents of our colleges have written to say that their full boards would consider the questions. I'm awaiting their response.

It is true that trustees of institutions can legally (but not morally) do as they wish once they become trustees.

Therefore, the only power the convention has to affect the direction of its institutions is in its ability to change trustees. If we adopt these by-law changes we will be in the position of giving our name, money, and beloved children to institutions we do not control.

Bobby T. Hood, pastor
West Salem Church
Richton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

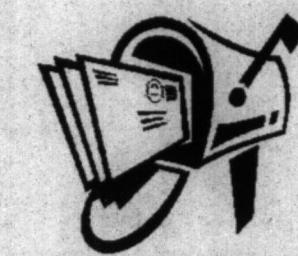
When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Revival results

Longview, Starkville: Aug. 30-Sept. 2; Mike Alexander, McComb, evangelist; Archie Chesser, Starkville, music; one profession of faith; Donald Pounds, pastor.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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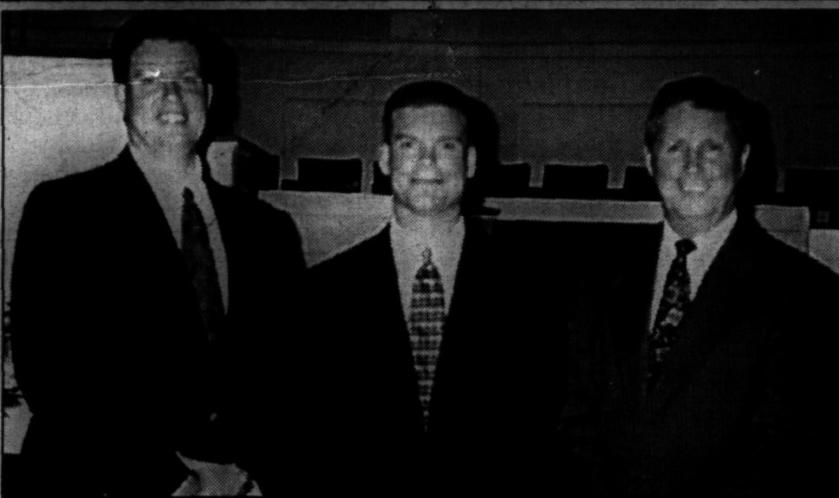
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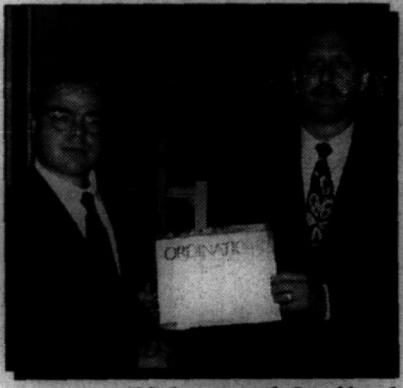
NAMES IN THE NEWS



Rocky Creek, Lucedale, ordained **Justin Howell** to the ministry on Aug. 23. Howell was recently called as pastor of Bluff Springs Church in Magnolia. Jon K. McCartney was also licensed on Aug. 23 to the music ministry. McCartney is music and youth at Rocky Creek Church. Pictured (from left) are McCartney, Howell, and Jerry Mixon, pastor.



Tony M. Inmon, son of Pat and Gerald Inmon of Oxford, was recently licensed to the ministry by First Church, Oxford. Inmon graduated from Blue Mountain College (BMC) in May and is currently serving as the associate pastor of Cason Church in Nettleton. He attends New Orleans Seminary in Birmingham, Ala. Pictured (from left) are Tom Atwood, pastor, First Church; Douglas Bain, professor at BMC; Inmon; and Wayne Brown, pastor, Cason Church.



Bishop and Stafford



Bishop and Smith

Siloam Church, West Point, ordained two new deacons on Sept. 13. Ordained were Mark Stafford and Larry Smith. David Bishop is pastor. Bishop is pictured with both Stafford and Smith.

Tommy A. Jarrett, pastor, and his wife Sandra celebrated their 10th anniversary on Aug. 30 at Raymond Road Church, Raymond. Following a high attendance in Sunday School of 397, a morning service was held in the Christian Life Center. A special program honoring

the Jarretts included special music and a message of congratulations was given by Bill Causey as messenger from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Jarretts were presented an all-expense-paid trip to the Holy Land. A reception was held in their honor following the morning service.

Loretta Rivers is the newly elected instructor in social work in the Division of Christian Education at New Orleans Seminary. A native of Union, Rivers has served as a social worker in New Orleans

since 1989, specializing in medical and gerontological social work. She has also served at the Carver Center, a Christian social ministry of the North

American Mission Board. Rivers is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, New Orleans Seminary, and Louisiana State University.

Golf tourney nets \$10K for retired ministers

The second annual Retired Ministers Golf Tournament netted \$10,000 for the Adopt an Annuitant (AA) program of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The tournament is sponsored by Raymond Road Church and Community Bank, according to Andy Holder of Jackson, coordinator for the event.

The AA program provides a monthly supplement of \$50 to needy retired ministers, Baptist workers, and widowed spouses. Funds for the AA program come from the donations of individuals and churches, according to John Ambra of Dallas, AA program manager.

The AA program began in 1981 with seven participants. In 1996, 2,850 people were helped, Ambra said.

In Mississippi, there are 1,149 annuitants. Of that number, 405 receive \$200 a month or less, and of that number, 181 receive \$100 a month or less.

This year's golf tournament drew 140 golfers, nearly double the 71 who

played in the first tournament. More importantly, Holder pointed out, they raised \$4,200 more than in 1997, from \$5,800 to \$10,000.

"This is still just a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed," Holder said.

Holder pointed out that a special account has been established at the Annuity Board for Mississippians, where tournament proceeds are deposited.

"God is working in this to help his retired servants. So, if you love God and play golf, then get on board and let's double this next year," he said.

Next year's tournament will be held at the new Refuge Golf Course in Flowood. Holder is seeking additional sponsors from businesses, churches, and individuals. For more information, contact Holder at (601) 372-6154 (days) or (601) 373-9520 (nights).

Mind of Christ." Hunt is a prayer specialist in the Adult Discipleship and Family Development Department of the Sunday School Board. He previously served as a professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary. For more information call (601) 456-5311.

Southern Seminary Alumni & Friends Fellowship Luncheon

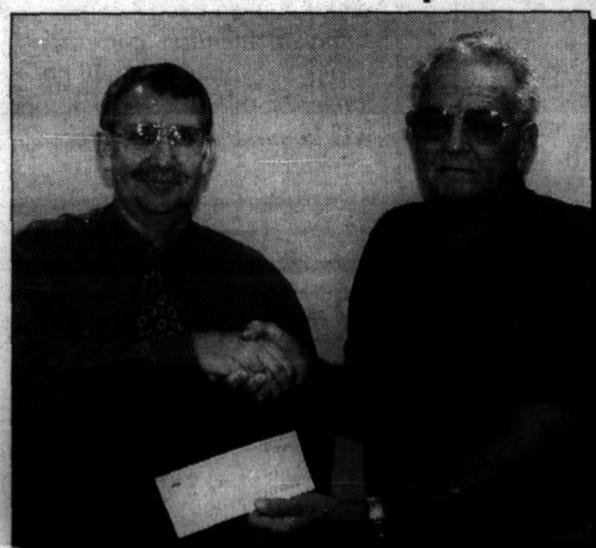
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HELP FOR ANNUITANTS — Robin Nichols (left), Miss. representative for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, accepts a check for the proceeds of the Retired Ministers Golf Tournament for deposit in a special Miss. account for the Adopt an Annuitant program. The funds will be used to help needy Mississippi retired pastors, their widows, and other Baptists workers. (Photo by Carl M. White)

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Tutwiler, held a recognition service for its GAs on Aug. 30. Holly Pearson, Anna Harp, and Erin Pharis (pictured) received GA bracelets and World Venture charms.

Griffin Memorial Church, Jackson, honored its pastor, Bruce Cappleman, and his family, in recognition of his 10th anniversary. Taking part in a special service held during the morning worship time were Ray Montgomery, chairman of the deacons; Don Buchanan, minister of music from Houston; and Jim Futral of Jackson. At the conclusion of the service, the church presented to Cappleman and his wife, Martha, a 13-day Alaskan vacation and cruise. Following the service, a church-wide luncheon was held in the Family Life Building.



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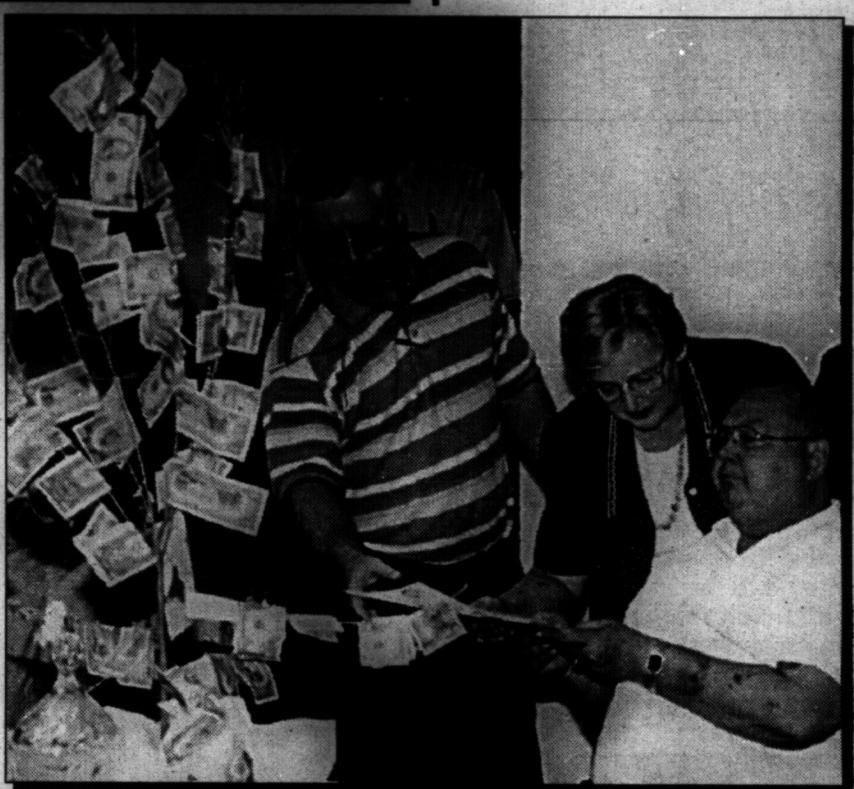
FERRIDAY — First Church: full-time minister of education and youth; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

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Strayhorn Church, Northwest Association, will dedicate its new education building at homecoming day on Oct. 11. The education building, consisting of a new fellowship hall/kitchen, 15 classrooms, and offices; and the remodeling of the sanctuary was completed in April. Bobby Cossey, former pastor, will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be served following the services. Gary Black is pastor.

The Women's Auxiliary of New Orleans Seminary will hold its fall meeting in Carey Hall on Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Chuck Gaines, dean of students and associate professor of Church Administration. Patricia Collier of the music faculty will present the special music. For more information call Mona Stewart, publicity chairman, at (504) 282-0824.



First Church, Ellisville, recently honored its pastor, Alan Woodward, and his wife, Frances, with a trip to the Holy Land. James Read, chairman of the deacons, made the presentation to the Woodwards in the form of a plaque. Woodward is serving in his 17th year at the church. Pictured (from left) are Read, Alan Woodward, and Frances Woodward.

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PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/YOUTH DIRECTOR: Send resumes to Canaan Baptist Church, Youth Director Search	FULL TIME MUSIC AND ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: Send resumes to First Baptist Church, PO Box 129, Union, MS 39365. Telephone - (601) 774-8144 or 774-8244. Fax (601) 774-8174.

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Trinity Church, Laurel, honored A. Harrison Weger, pastor for eight years, and his wife Dolly with a reception on his retirement June 14. Weger has been in the ministry for 33 years. The Wegers are pictured receiving a presentation from Jackie Walters, chairman of the deacons.

Tuscola Church to celebrate 100 years

Tuscola Church, Leake Association, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Oct. 11. Services will begin at 11 a.m., followed by lunch, and afternoon program. Smith Sanders is pastor.

Churches to receive comp newspapers

Beginning with this issue of The Baptist Record, every cooperating church of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will receive a complimentary copy of the newspaper each week.

This action is being provided as a service to Mississippi Baptist churches participating in the Cooperative Program, and also to streamline the massive church mailing list maintained by staff of The Baptist Record.

The mailing label on the complimentary copy will show only the name of the church and the address on file, rather than a person's name. Individual subscribers and churches that participate in the church subscription plans will not be affected.

For more information contact Renee Walley, circulation manager for The Baptist Record, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir Auditions

REGISTRATION FORM

- I PLAN TO AUDITION FOR CHOIR ONLY
 I PLAN TO AUDITION FOR ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

Instrumentalists should be prepared to audition for the choir and the orchestra. Instrumental auditions will be held November 19, 20 and 21 only.

LOCATION AND DATE OF CHOIR AUDITION _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

PHONE NO. _____

BIRTHDATE _____

AGE _____ GRADE _____ YRS OF VOICE LESSONS _____

INSTRUMENTS PLAYED _____ CHAIR IN BAND _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____ Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

PHONE NO. _____

MUSIC DIRECTOR _____

PHONE (CHURCH) _____ (HOME) _____

ASSOCIATION _____

Please circle years you have already been in the Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir

1996 1997 1998

Please enclose \$3 for each registration and return at least two weeks prior to audition, to Church Music Department, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

Auditions set for '99 All-State Youth Choir

The audition schedule has been finalized for the 1999 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir, which is open to students in grades nine-12.

The schedule for choral auditions is:

• Oct. 22 at 5 p.m.: Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus.

• Oct. 24 at 9 a.m.: Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

• Oct. 26 at 5 p.m.: First Church, Natchez.

• Oct. 31 at 9 a.m.: Baptist Building, Jackson.

• Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.: Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale.

• Nov. 7 at 10 a.m.: First Church, Ocean Springs.

• Nov. 14 at 12 noon: First Church, Summit.

• Nov. 16 at 5 p.m.: First Church, Meridian.

The schedule for choral and orchestral auditions is:

• Nov. 19 at 5 p.m.: William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

• Nov. 20 at 5 p.m.: Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

• Nov. 21 at 12 noon: North Oxford Church, Oxford.

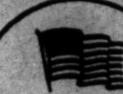
Choir auditions will consist of a personal interview including testimony; hymn solo (two stanzas — no tapes); sight-singing; and singing voice part from

hymn (girls will sing alto part).

Instrumental auditions will include a prepared piece; scales; sight reading; and technique/tune. All instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.

Registration is required two weeks prior to audition date.

For more information, contact the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. (See registration form, below left.)



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The late Congressman Claude Pepper

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LIFE AND WORK

Speaking helpful words

2 Kings 5:1-27

By Michael Johnson

It has been estimated that most people speak enough in one week to fill a large 500-page book. Considering the words of Jesus, it is a rather sobering thought that our words will either 'justify' or 'condemn' us (see Matthew 12:36-37). This week's study reminds us how a few well-chosen words can make a tremendous difference in the life of one individual.

A timely word (5:1-3). Naaman, the commander of the army of Syria (the NIV calls this country 'Aram'), had leprosy. Border skirmishes between Syria and Israel were not uncommon, and apparently in

one such raid, a young Israelite girl had been captured and had become the slave to Naaman's wife. Leprosy was a dreaded disease which, according to Leviticus, rendered the afflicted and anyone who came into contact with them, ceremonially unclean—that is, unfit to worship God. Therefore, lepers were isolated from the rest of the community. Interestingly, in the Syrian culture, lepers were treated quite differently and the disease did not preclude someone like Naaman from holding a high office.

Regardless of the unnamed slave girl's situation, she had pity on her master and wished



Johnson

him to be made well again. Not only did she wish it, she knew what to do about it! "Go and see the prophet in Samaria," she advised. These simple words put into motion a series of life-changing events.

A reassuring word (5:4-8). Naaman makes the travel request to his king which is not only granted, but the Syrian king sends gifts (perhaps planning to purchase the cure?) and a letter to the Israelite king, Joram. Joram, upon receiving the letter is greatly distressed because he fears this is a trick and could be used as pretext for war. It is interesting to note that on the surface, the pagan king seems to show more faith than the king of Israel. The prophet Elisha hears of the request and sends word to Joram to send Naaman to him.

An instructive word (5:9-12). Upon arrival at Elisha's house,

Naaman and his entourage are met by a servant of Elisha, who delivers the message to go wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman had traveled a long way and apparently expected better treatment than he got. After all, he no doubt reasoned, he was an important person with the respect and honor of his king. Naaman probably felt rebuffed by the king of Israel by sending him here and now, he was not even going to be properly received. Naaman was furious and ready to return home.

An encouraging word (5:13-14). For the third time, an unnamed person appears before Naaman and utters words which need to be heard. A servant of Naaman begs the general to reconsider. After all, he reasons, if the request had been difficult, Naaman would not have hesitated to complete the task. Naaman relented, dipped himself seven times in the Jordan River and was healed!

A grateful word (5:15). Naaman not only has new skin, but apparently he now has a new heart. He did not fully understand what was expected of him, but in the end he believed and acted on that belief. Naaman publicly professed his faith in the one true God of Israel. The story concludes with Naaman's words of praise and gratitude for the blessings he had received.

Finally, consider this: the Lord's Prayer contains 56 words; the Gettysburg Address, 266; the Ten Commandments, 297; the Declaration of Independence, 300; and a recent U.S. government order setting the price of cabbage, 26,911. It is not how long we talk, it's what we say that is so important. What timely words might come from our mouths this week?

Johnson is a professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Mississippi College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Following God's leadership

Exodus 13:6-10, 17-22

By Walter M. Blackman

The world has seen many great leaders. Some leaders were very good and will be remembered for their wisdom, courage, and justice. Others were evil and will always be remembered for their cruelty, inhumanity, and injustice. In America, we have been blessed to have had so many great leaders throughout our history. We have been spared the evil many other nations have experienced at the hands of cruel and dictatorial rulers.

The Israelites were blessed to have Moses as their leader. More important, they were blessed to have God leading them. Moses' leadership was

made great by God's leadership. God had a specific purpose in mind for the Israelites and it required their submission to his leadership.

Leadership by command (13:6-10). God kept his promise and through mighty works delivered his people from their bondage. The Lord spared their firstborn, while causing the firstborn of Egypt to die. Thus, the Israelites began a journey with God through the wilderness towards the promised land. God told the Israelites to set apart to the Lord all the firstborn of Israel as a reminder of his claim over their lives. He also told his people to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread,



Blackman

a celebration of God's great deliverance. Only those in the covenant relationship with the Lord could participate. All others were excluded. The commands of the Lord gave opportunity for future generations to learn obedience to the Lord and to follow his leadership. God's word is filled with commands and directions for our lives.

Our lives are also a journey through a wilderness of sin and difficulty. Once we are saved, our journey with Christ begins and we must follow his leadership. We demonstrate God's leadership over our lives by giving him our unconditional devotion and observing the commands of Christ. The first obedient act is believer's baptism. Jesus commanded his followers to be baptized. Jesus also gave his followers instructions to observe a memorial supper. The Lord's Supper par-

allels the importance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover for the Israelites. It reminds us of our new covenant relationship in Christ. Only Christians should partake of the Lord's Supper. When we partake of the Lord's supper or submit to believer's baptism, we demonstrate our willingness to follow the commands of Christ.

Leadership by presence (13:17-22). Following God's specific commands to his people, the people left Egypt and went in the direction the Lord led them. There was a shorter route, but it was filled with danger and the people were not ready for war. The same principle applies to church leadership and new Christians. Churches have discouraged many immature converts by giving them too much responsibility too soon. God's plan of discipleship should not be sacrificed for faster results, but should be carried out under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The bones of

Joseph carried by the Israelites was a constant reminder of God's fulfillment of his promise to return to his people and deliver them. Each generation needs to learn the lesson of believing God and following him. The presence of God became a reality and was manifested by the daytime cloud .. the pillar of fire by night. The constant visibility of the cloud and pillar of fire reminded God's people he was with them. Christians are given the written Word as guide for our journey through life. We are also given the Holy Spirit, who leads us and empowers us for the journey. We may wish to choose a faster way, a shorter way, or an easier way, but God's way is always best. Obeying the commands of Christ and depending on his guiding presence will demonstrate to others who our leader is and safely lead us homeward.

Blackman is pastor of First Church, Marion.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Disastrous choice

1 Samuel 7:15-8:22

By Greg Bowers

There is a lot of theology in country music—some good and some bad! I do agree with Garth Brooks' song in which he "thanks God for unanswered prayers." He reminds us that God often blesses us by saying no to our requests when we want him to say yes. Such was the experience of the Israelites. They wanted, like their neighbors, a monarchy with all of the exquisite trappings of royalty. God granted their request, but it started them on a lengthy downward spiral that culminated with destruction and enslavement. Our desires and choices should be in keeping



Bowers

with God's purposes for our lives. However, he allows us to make choices and then allows us to endure their consequences.

Good man (7:15-17). Samuel had been dedicated to God as an act of gratitude by his previously barren mother, Hannah. He was raised by Eli at Shiloh, the center of Hebrew worship. Eli's sons were wicked and blasphemous. Their sin was so grievous that God raised up the Philistine army as his instruments of punishment. The Ark of the Covenant was taken, Israel was defeated and Eli's sons died. During this time, Samuel was recognized by the

people as a prophet. Later, he came to be recognized as their national leader. Under his leadership, the Philistine army was routed and the Ark was returned to its rightful place. Also, all of the land which had been lost to the Philistines was reclaimed and peace reigned throughout the land. Samuel is one of the great unsung heroes of the OT. In Jeremiah 15:1, God refers to Moses and him as the two greatest intercessors of Israel. He ruled faithfully over Israel from around 1066 B.C. to around 1000 B.C. Verse 16 indicates that he had an itinerant ministry—traveling throughout the land dispensing justice and leading the people in worship.

Wrong move (8:1-3). Samuel's effectiveness as a leader diminishes as he grows older. He passes his authority on to his sons,

Joel (which means "Yahweh is God") and Abiah (which means "My Father is Yahweh"). However, they do not rule with the same focus and commitment of their father. They seek after riches, take bribes and do not dispense justice fairly like their father had done.

Unwise solution (8:4-9). Disgusted with Joel and Abiah, the tribal leaders confront Samuel at his home in Ramah. They make a two-fold complaint to him—"you're too old to lead effectively" and "your sons are a disgrace." Then, they make their demand to him—"we want a king so that we can be like all of the other nations around us." On the surface it seems reasonable. A king would be able to consolidate the twelve tribes into a strong international power. A king could give them much-needed respect on the world stage. Samuel feels as though the people are rejecting him and

takes his burden to God. Every deacon, church leader, minister, etc. in the world ought to mark and memorize verse seven. God tells Samuel that the people are not rejecting him, but are, in reality, rejecting God. When people reject our message or our mission, they are primarily rejecting God and not us. God tells Samuel to try to dissuade the people by giving them a reality check of what would be involved in instituting a monarchy. Samuel's words are an exercise in futility because the people's minds are already made up.

Stubborn Mandate (8:19-22). The people refuse to listen to Samuel's logic. They insist upon having their way. (They must have been Baptist!) Samuel again goes to God with his burden. God grants their requests and tells Samuel to start the process of finding a king.

Bowers is pastor of First Church, Indianola.

IMB announces twin disaster relief efforts



FLOOD MISERIES — Up to 20 million people in Bangladesh face life-threatening hunger and sickness as the nation's worst-ever flooding continues. The International Mission Board has authorized more than \$600,000, and may send upwards of \$1 million later, to feed 100,000 people for a month, provide clean water and fund food-for-work programs to rebuild devastated areas. Thousands of people also have been ravaged by Hurricane Georges in the Caribbean, and Southern Baptist mission leaders have issued an urgent appeal for relief gifts to both areas. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

would he rescue 75,000 hungry people clinging to the edges of a road with floodwaters lapping at their feet?

That question confronted Southern Baptist relief workers in mid-September as they drove — and rowed — through Bangladesh, a land drowned by two months of flooding.

On one 35-kilometer stretch, "there was no dry ground at all except the shoulders of the road, where the people had built small bamboo structures," said Bill Cashion, the International Mission Board's (IMB) human needs consultant. "They're liv-

ing on the side of the road with water licking at their heels. That scene is repeated hundreds of times across the country."

With an estimated 20 million Bangladeshis facing serious threats from hunger and disease — and now thousands of people devastated by Hurricane Georges in the Caribbean — Southern Baptist mission leaders have issued an urgent appeal for relief gifts.

These two disasters have hit at a time when Southern Baptist relief funds on hand are inadequate to meet the needs, Cashion said. Ministries to victims of the Bangladesh flood and the Caribbean hurricane will stress the IMB's general relief fund, which currently contains only \$300,000.

The most extensive flooding in Bangladesh's history has covered three quarters of the country since it began in July. The waters are finally receding, but they're leaving behind vast, disease-ridden landscapes of rancid muck, contaminated wells, ruined croplands — and an estimated 30 million homeless people.

To meet critical needs, the International Mission Board has authorized more than \$600,000, and may send upwards of \$1 million more later — if Southern Baptists help provide it. Much of the need in Bangladesh will be met from the World Hunger Fund, which has benefited from increased

giving in recent months.

"I knew I was going to see a lot of devastation, but I wasn't prepared for what I saw," said Cashion, who surveyed hard-hit areas with IMB missionary R.T. Buckley and Mickey Caison of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

In the town of Gopalganj, the survey team found 20 families sleeping on tables above knee-deep water at the local Baptist church. Most of them "had no food at all," Cashion said. Another 70 people were huddling in a single mission-owned house that withstood the flooding.

An International Mission Board team left the United States Sept. 24 to assess the damage on Caribbean islands devastated by Hurricane Georges earlier that week. That team will return with recommendations for relief efforts on the islands.

The Southern Baptist aid effort in Bangladesh will focus first on relief, then rehabilitation. Food aid totaling \$500,000 will feed about 1,000 families, or approximately 100,000 people, for a month in 16 districts where Baptists work. About \$100,000 will pay for sinking

200 emergency tube wells to provide clean water and the digging of hundreds of sanitary latrines — a critical concern as floodwaters recede. Southern Baptists also have donated two water purifiers to the Bangladeshi government that will provide water for up to 30,000 people a day.

Caison is recruiting teams of volunteers from Baptist Men's disaster relief units to go to Bangladesh, beginning in October, to test water sources for contamination and train Bangladeshis in testing. Up to 50,000 tube wells, including many sunk over the years by Southern Baptist workers, have been destroyed or contaminated.

"When you look at the need, this is far too small," Cashion said of the plan. "But if Southern Baptists join others who are sending aid, we can help the people of Bangladesh escape a famine that will make Ethiopia, Sudan, North Korea, and Somalia look tiny in comparison."

Southern Baptists who want to contribute to the effort can send gifts designated for "general relief" to: Southern Baptist World Relief, Office of Finance, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

NOBTS spared major hit from Hurricane Georges

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — As Hurricane Georges sputtered across the southeast United States as a heavy storm front, New Orleans Seminary officials are breathing a sigh of relief after early forecasts showed the medium-size hurricane could possibly have swamped the city if it had not veered into Mississippi and Alabama instead.

"God appears to have spared New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the city of New Orleans a direct hit from Hurricane Georges," said Chuck Kelley, seminary president. Most students, staff, and faculty of the seminary were among the hundreds of thousands of people who evacuated the greater New Orleans area.

"The seminary's impact has been from sustained high winds Sunday night and all day Monday, causing loss of power and downed trees," Kelley said.

The seminary's 52-lot trailer park was evacuated Sept. 26. Many families and single students drove to northern Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to stay with family and friends and churches that had notified the seminary of shelter space for students who could not return home.

The seminary established a shelter and emergency personnel command post in its Dodd Dormitory, a men's dorm on the western and higher side of the campus.

Other than the trailer park, of which all mobile homes are owned by students, all seminary buildings previously had been evaluated for safety and stability by Red Cross personnel and were deemed sturdy enough to weather a hurricane. Students left the campus because of the possibility of flooding and power outages.

Bibliocipher

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MZE SW EJHZCLHZ
CZUH, MZWE, U RHLINWZ
YZNAP MZCE SW LC
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WJLSMX WZZI EL VLIZ
WJLHE LC NE.
JZYHZDW CLSH: LAZ

Clue: U = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Ten Ten.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

Why can't we carry out James 5:14? This seems to be a difficult passage to preach in Southern Baptist churches.

James 5:14 (NIV) states: "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord." We Southern Baptists tend to get hung up on the oil part and miss the real meaning of this passage, namely that prayer works. The prayers of the righteous avail much. The oil is an Old Testament symbol for the presence of God, and an object lesson that gives visual expression to the power of prayer. Touching another person in this manner is also a way of allowing God's power through his people to flow from the strong to the weak. Ask a physician about the power of touch. Scripture is a beautiful picture of man's search for meaning and love. God does not intend for it to be a stumbling block. Study the Bible with an open heart and mind, and God will lead you toward understanding passages that create difficulty for you.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.